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MEDIA ADVISORY:

**Navajo Nation President Ben Shelly and USDA Undersecretary Edward Avalos to
Announce Animal Disease Emergency Preparedness**
Full Scale Exercise to be held at Nation's Fairgrounds

Window Rock, Ariz., – The Navajo Nation and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) will host a press conference to showcase the joint emergency preparedness full-scale logistics exercise relating to USDA's National Veterinary Stockpile (NVS). The unprecedented exercise on Navajo land will allow Tribal personnel to gain experience with the NVS request process between Tribal and Federal agencies; and to validate the Navajo Nation NVS Tribal Plan through hands-on experience in warehouse operations. The exercise will help identify planning gaps, shortfalls, or limitations that could impair the Navajo Nation's ability to receive, store, and distribute NVS countermeasures in a real emergency.

The NVS is the nation's repository of critical veterinary counter measures, which includes supplies, equipment, animal vaccines, and diagnostic test kits. It exists to provide states, tribes, and territories with the resources they need to respond to damaging animal disease outbreaks.

WHEN: Wednesday, Apr. 27, 2011

TIME: 2:00 p.m.

WHERE: Nakai Hall, Hwy 264, Navajo Nation Fairgrounds, Window Rock, AZ

Photography will be allowed following the press conference from an authorized location. Media will enter through the south entrance of Nakai Hall. Please confirm attendance by calling Selena Manychildren Thomas at (928) 797-1344.

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